

this tiny town of 800 are scrambling to fill their roles.

At the local cafe and in school hallways, the callup and what to do about the loss of city leaders is the talk of the town. At city hall, meanwhile, officials have been rushing to prepare paperwork necessary to transfer the mayor's power to a 78-year-old retired school teacher.

The soon-to-be acting police chief says Bradford is just one example of how the war in Iraq has affected small town America.

"One way or another we're going to handle it," said Michael Ray, who will become the new police chief, along with his job as a school resources officer. "It's going to be OK. I'm going to run it the same way as if the chief was here."

In addition to Mayor Paul Bunn, Chief Josh Chambliss and librarian Nolan Brown, five other citizens of this farm town have received orders to report to Fort Hood, Texas. There, they will prepare for a tour of duty in Iraq that is expected to put them in Iraq by Christmas.

Greba Edens, the town's recorder-treasurer, will take over for the 35-year-old mayor. Previously, she spent 24 years as Bradford's fourth-grade teacher.

"Most of the people on the city council now, she's paddled them before," Bunn said. Edens said she plans to carry on with Bunn's ideas. "As the mayor says, we're a family here," she said.

At the elementary school, Brown was organizing the library ahead of his deployment. He served in Vietnam and has been in the National Guard for 31 years. Now 57, he was hoping to leave the guard at age 60.

"I've got stuff scattered from here to there getting ready," he said. "I want to leave it as if I'm not coming back."

"The children here, they ask me, 'Are you going? When are you going?'" he said. "They know there's some turmoil somewhere. I tell them they may not take me because of my age . . . but it would be unwise not to prepare them."

The school had a going-away party for Brown in the cafeteria, presenting him with a cake that read, "Our prayers are with you." The school will shuffle around teachers to make up for Brown's absence.

After nine years at the school, all the students know him. As he leaves, he shouts a goodbye to his cousin's son in the hallway.

"Tell your Mom, since things have escalated, that I may not get to see her," he said to the boy. "Tell her I'll miss her and love her."

Brown says he's edgy about his departure, as are his wife and the three children they care for. But he's adamant that he has to give back to a country that gave him an education.

"The U.S. has been very good to me," he said, adding he believes citizens need "to be willing to do whatever it takes to make sure kids in the future have the same opportunities that we have."

Unlike Brown, who works in a headquarters group, the police chief and the mayor are infantry soldiers responsible for more dangerous security duty.

"I'll make a deal with the president," said Bunn, who has fought in Panama and in the Gulf War. "I'll go over there, but I'm not willing to die. Maybe it's because I've got kids now."

Bunn could be gone for up to two years. Even if he stays that long, he'll still have over a year left of his term as mayor when he returns.

Chambliss, 28, has been the town's police chief since 2001. He's not worried about Bradford, which is about 70 miles northeast of Little Rock. He said he expects the town's other four officers to continue to man the

school crossings and attend all the ball games.

"I'm curious to see what the next 18 months hold, not for me but for Bradford," Chambliss said. "I want to come back into town and see the progress."

Chambliss said that he's upset to leave his wife. They were planning to start a family soon.

He is spending the rest of his time in Bradford saying goodbye to friends and family. He had lunch at his regular spot, the Front St. Cafe, just down the road from the police station.

The cafe's owner and waitress, Marcia Pressler, said she gave him that day's \$4.95 plate special of roast beef, potatoes and carrots on the house.

"It's like a part of your family going off," she said. "I felt like I'm feeding him his last supper."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. How much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Seven and one-half minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you, Mr. President.

GUARD AND RESERVE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I salute my colleague from Arkansas for the tribute she made to this unit in her home State of Arkansas. Every one of us in the Senate can tell a similar story. But she tells us so well about the lives that are affected by the activation of Guard and Reserve men and women who leave important lives and careers and step aside to serve their Nation.

That is why it is so troubling that I come to the floor today to report for those who follow the Senate that yesterday in the conference committee of the Appropriations Committee where we met to discuss the \$87 billion request of the President, we stripped out a provision which had been adopted on the Senate floor. I would like to describe it to those who want to stand behind the families of those activated Guard and Reserve men and women.

We have 1.2 million Guard and Reserve in the United States. Ten percent of them work for the Federal Government, when they are not serving in the Guard and Reserve. At the present moment, of the 120,000 Federal employees with the Guard and Reserve, 23,000 have been activated. They include some people who are in the unit the Senator from Arkansas just described.

I offered an amendment on the floor that said when you activate a Federal employee to the Guard and Reserve, the Federal Government agency that the person works for will make up any shortfall and any difference in income while that Guard or Reserve person is on active duty. That is not a radical suggestion. There are dozens of State governments and local units of government that already do that, including my home State of Illinois and the City of Chicago.

If you are a Chicago policeman in the Guard and you are activated, the City

of Chicago stands behind you and says we will make up the difference in pay if there is a shortfall so that there is no hardship on your family. That amendment passed the floor of the Senate 96 to 3. Yesterday it was stripped out of the conference committee report that is being considered. It is \$87 billion.

Every day we hear Senators come to the floor singing the praises, deservedly, of the men and women in uniform to say we stand in solidarity with them and their families as they fight for America. These same Members who come to the floor praising the guardsmen and reservists also voted for my amendment, saying let us hold them harmless if they go off to serve our Nation for 6 months, or 12 months, or 16 months. They all voted for this amendment.

Yesterday, on a party-line vote, with every Republican Senator voting no, they took this provision out of the bill. Many of the same Senators who just a few days ago had voted on the floor for this provision reversed their position and said no, the Federal Government will not set an example and will not make up the difference in pay for those thousands of Federal employees activated in the Guard and Reserve. That is unfair and it is unfortunate. Those who come here to wave the flag about their support for our fighting men and women weren't there yesterday on this crucial vote in this conference committee.

I hope those across America who follow this debate and who may know some of these families affected by this amendment will contact their Senators and tell them it was a grave injustice that we allowed this to occur. It was a real disappointment to me. We could have done the right thing yesterday, but, sadly, we did not.

IRAQ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I listened earlier to the Senator from Missouri talking about the State of affairs in Iraq. I would like to comment on that very briefly.

If I understood his argument, he said that 6 months after hostilities had ended—at least the military operation as the President described it, and after the efforts of different inspectors and the expenditure of millions of dollars—he believed the fact that Dr. David Kay couldn't produce any evidence whatsoever of weapons of mass destruction did not reflect on statements made by this administration before we invaded Iraq. I think that is clearly wrong.

This has been declassified. We said we knew of 550 sites of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq before we invaded—550 of them. Doesn't it stand to reason that these inspectors would go to those sites first to find the weapons of mass destruction? Isn't it revealing that they have come up with no evidence whatsoever? What a tremendous breakdown in intelligence gathering—that 550 suspected sites have now turned up